

## CLAIMS

1. A pre-writing teaching aid to assist beginning writers in creating letters and pre-writing strokes, the pre-writing teaching aid comprising:
  - a magnetic-responsive drawing tablet including a housing, a writing surface and means for displaying an image responsive to magnetic contact on the writing surface;
  - means for erasing the image; and
  - at least four magnetic stamps, the magnetic stamps being appropriately sized relative to the writing surface and shaped as big line, little line, big curve and little curve.
2. A pre-writing teaching aid according to claim 1, further comprising a visual cue in an upper left-hand corner region of the housing.
3. A pre-writing teaching aid according to claim 2, wherein the visual cue is a happy face.
4. A pre-writing teaching aid according to claim 1, further comprising a magnetic writing tool attached to the housing by a cord.
5. A pre-writing teaching aid according to claim 4, wherein the magnetic writing tool is sized and shaped to resemble a piece of chalk.
6. A method of assisting beginning writers in creating letters and pre-writing strokes using a pre-writing teaching aid including a magnetic-responsive drawing tablet having a housing, a writing surface and means for displaying an image responsive to magnetic contact on the writing surface, means for erasing the image, and at least four magnetic stamps appropriately sized relative to the writing surface and shaped as big line, little line, big curve and little curve, the method sequentially comprising:
  - (a) a teacher stamping the writing surface with one of the at least four magnetic stamps aligned with either the upper left-hand corner region of the housing or a central upper region of the housing to form a part letter image;
  - (b) the teacher erasing the part letter image;
  - (c) a student imitating the teacher stamping of step (a);
  - (d) the teacher stamping the writing surface with one or more of the at least four magnetic stamps to form a complete letter image;

- (e) the teacher erasing the complete letter image; and
- (f) the student imitating the teacher stamping of step (e).

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the pre-writing teaching aid further comprises a visual cue in an upper left-hand corner region of the housing, and wherein step (a) is practiced for some letters by stamping the writing surface with one of the at least four magnetic stamps aligned with the visual cue.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein the pre-writing teaching aid comprises a magnetic writing tool attached to the housing by a cord, and wherein the method further comprises, between steps (d) and (e), the student tracing the complete letter image with the magnetic writing tool.

9. A method according to claim 6, wherein the pre-writing teaching aid comprises a magnetic writing tool attached to the housing by a cord, and wherein the method further comprises, after step (f), the student tracing the complete letter image with the magnetic writing tool.